

2004-05-06

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 116

TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2006

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Document

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following document:

Labor to seek legal advice on Costello bank letter plan—Copy of press release from Mr Beazley, Leader of the Opposition, 13 August 1996.

Questions without notice continuing—

Document

Mr Fitzgibbon, by leave, presented the following document:

Private-plated vehicle replacement and LPG fuel—Copy of letter from Mr Nairn, Special Minister of State, to Ms George, Member for Throsby, 13 July 2006.

Questions without notice continued.

3 DOCUMENT

The following document was presented:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Report—Innovating rural Australia: Research and development corporation outcomes, 2005.

4 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker referred to a matter of privilege raised by Mr Randall on 21 June 2006 in connection with an inquiry being conducted by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

The Speaker stated that the Member's complaint concerned a letter sent to the committee which disagreed with statements the Member had made in a submission to the committee, and, in accordance with practice in these matters, the issue had been referred to the committee.

The Speaker further stated that he had subsequently been advised by the chair of the committee that the committee had considered the matter and had concluded that from its perspective no issue of privilege had arisen.

Document

The Speaker presented the following document:

Matter of privilege raised by Member for Canning—Letter from Mr A. D. H. Smith, Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, to Mr Hawker, Speaker, 9 August 2006.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AVIATION SECURITY

The House was informed that Mr Bevis had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "the Government's mismanagement of aviation security and its failure to put in place the practical measures necessary to make Australian aviation safe from terrorism".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bevis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following document:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 4 September 2006.

7 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Bartlett (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Social Security and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) 2006; and

Privacy Legislation Amendment 2006.

Question—put and passed.

8 PETROLEUM RETAIL LEGISLATION REPEAL BILL 2006

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr M. J. Ferguson, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) calls on the Government to require the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources to report to the Parliament annually, commencing in August 2007, on the measures taken and the progress made to:
 - (a) increase market penetration of ethanol and biodiesel, LPG and CNG, including the number and location of service stations and the names of the companies offering these products on their retail sites;
 - (b) secure new investment in biofuel, LPG and CNG production and supply infrastructure in Australia; and
 - (c) secure investment in new alternative transport fuel industries in Australia, including gas and coal to liquids;
- (2) calls on the Government to review, in 2009, the proposal to introduce excise on ethanol and biodiesel, LPG and CNG in 2011, and consider whether or not there is a case for delaying the introduction of excise, depending on the progress made:
 - (a) in increasing market penetration of biofuels, LPG and CNG;
 - (b) in securing new investment in biofuel, LPG and CNG production and supply infrastructure in Australia; and
 - (c) towards achieving the 350 million litre biofuels target in 2010;
- (3) criticises the Government for:
 - (a) its tardiness in moving on petrol retail reform;
 - (b) bypassing due parliamentary process in introducing a regulation to “undeclare” companies under the Sites Act;
 - (c) failing to introduce amendments to the TPA to implement the 2003 Dawson and 2004 Senate recommendations for reform; and
 - (d) failing to act to reduce Australia's dependence on foreign oil and improve its transport fuel security;
- (4) calls on the Government to immediately conduct a feasibility study into a gas to liquids fuels plant in Australia, including:
 - (a) consideration of Petroleum Resources Rent tax incentives for developers of gas fields which provide resources for gas to liquid fuels projects;

- (b) examining a new infrastructure investment allowance for investment in Australian gas to liquids infrastructure; and
- (c) developing a targeted funding scheme for research and development in this area;
- (5) calls on the Government to immediately embrace Labor's Fuels Blueprint proposal to:
 - (a) make alternative fuel vehicles tariff free, cutting up to \$2000 off the price of current hybrid cars; and
 - (b) grant tax rebates for converting petrol cars to LPG; and
- (6) calls on the Government to immediately embrace Labor's Fuels Blueprint to find more oil and use more gas by:
 - (a) re-examining the depreciation regime for gas production infrastructure; and
 - (b) allowing the selective use of flow-through share schemes for smaller operators".

Debate resumed.

Mr Murphy addressing the House—

9 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.29 p.m., adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 15 August 2006:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) Act, Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act, Fuel Sales Grants Act, *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*, *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, Pay-roll Tax Assessment Act, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 1) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 2) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 3) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 4) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 5) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 6) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 7) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 8) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 9) 1930*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 10) 1985*, *Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 11) 1985*, Sales Tax Assessment Act, Sales Tax Procedure Act, *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1935*, *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1992*, Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act, Taxation Administration Act, Taxation (Interest on Overpayments and Early Payments) Act, Tobacco Charges Assessment Act, *Wool Tax Act (No. 1) 1964*, *Wool Tax Act (No. 2) 1964*, *Wool Tax Act (No. 3) 1964*, *Wool Tax Act (No. 4) 1964*, *Wool Tax Act (No. 5) 1964* and Wool Tax (Administration) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2006 No. 216 [F2006L02613].

Currency Act—Determination—Currency (Royal Australian Mint) 2006 (No. 2)—Amendment 2006 (No.1) [F2006L02667].

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under—

Sub-section 40(3)—June 2006.

Section 125(5)—June 2006.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Determinations—2006—

Vehicle Standard (Australian design rule 14/02—Rear vision mirrors) [F2006L02663].

Vehicle Standard (Australian design rule 25/02—Anti-theft lock) [F2006L02664].

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2006 No. 211 [F2005L02653].

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2006 No. 206 [F2006L02654].

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2006 No. 215 [F2006L02594].

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation—2006 No. 5.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations—2006 Nos FTD 1, FTD 2, FTD 3.

Rulings—

2004—No. GSTR 9 (Addendum).

2005—No. PR 115 (Withdrawal).

2006—

Nos CR 67 (Erratum), CR 73, CR 74, CR 75, CR 76.

Nos GSTR 5 (Erratum), GSTR 7 (Addendum), GSTR 8 (Addendum).

No. IT 2503 (Addendum).

Wool Services Privatisation Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2006 No. 207 [F2006L02638].

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Fran Bailey, Mr Byrne, Mrs Draper, Mrs Gash, Mr M. A. J. Vaile and Mrs D. S. Vale.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives